Replacement of Existing number plates

*637. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to replace the existing number plates with high security number plates for more than two crore vehicles within a specific period of two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Road Research Institute has given some specification for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to get them implemented before enunciation o(the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Technical specifications of high security registration plates and the names of agencies authorized to carry out testing have been notified by the Government. Any prospective vendor has to get his product approved by one of these testing agencies. Thereafter, it is upto the concerned State Government to select a vendor or vendors for supplying these plates.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of high performance Computer and Other Items

*638. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States of America has decided to remove the restrictions on export of high performance computer and other high tech items to other countries including India;

(b) if so, whether this would have any useful impact on further expansion and upgradation of the Indian information technology industry and development of high quality computers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The United States of America controls the export of high performance computers to India through a system of export licenses and notification requirements. From time to time, the US Government reviews the guidelines and parameters for export of high performance computers. In January, 2002, the US Government has further liberalized the export control regime for such computers enabling export of computers capable of running at 190,000 Millions of Theoretical Operations Per Second (MTOPS) without the US exporters having to notify the US Federal Government.

(b) and (c) The high performance computers are useful in various compute intensive applications such as Weather forecasting, Seismic data processing, Bio-informatics, Molecular modelling etc.

Record Export of Foodgrains

*639. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR.TSUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrain export touched a record high during the financial year ending the 31st March, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Government have been able to earn foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 4,000 crore due to the export of foodgrains;

(c) the countries to which foodgrain exports have recorded high;

(d) the*efforts being made to further improve foodgrain exports;